

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/16/05

BUDGETS

• Sen. Hammerstrom withdrew her motions to reconsider the votes passing the budgets.

SB 272 (Johnson)

General Government budget

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.
- Cropsey 1A (6 amends) was adopted.
- Garcia 1B (4 amends) was adopted.
- SWITALSKI 1C (1 amend) was adopted.
- SWITALSKI 1D (2 amends) was defeated.
- SB 272 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SCHAUER 1 (2 amends) was adopted. \$600,000 to help local communities collected unpaid taxes.
- SB 272 passed [RC 253: 34 yes, 2 no (BARCIA, Patterson)]. Hammerstrom moved to have the vote passing SB 272 reconsidered. She then had her motion passed for the day.

SB 273 (Johnson)

Higher Education budget

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 273 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SCOTT 1 (3 amends) was defeated [no RC]. Restore 5% cut to Wayne State University.
- PRUSI 2 (3 amends) was defeated [no RC]. Restore funding to Northern Michigan University.
- EMERSON 3 (4 amends) was defeated [RC 255: 16 yes, 21 no]. Funding for all universities would remain at current year levels. All additional funds would be used for competitive scholarships.
- SB 273 passed [RC 256: 23 yes, 14 no]. Hammerstrom moved to have the vote passing SB 273 reconsidered. She then had her motion passed for the day.

SB 276 (Johnson)

Department of Labor and Economic Growth budget

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.
- Garcia 1A (3 amends) was withdrawn.

- Garcia 1B (3 amends) was adopted, reconsidered, then withdrawn.
- Garcia 1C (1 amend) was adopted.
- PRUSI 1D (4 amends) was defeated.
- PRUSI 1E (1 amend) was defeated.
- PRUSI 1F (1 amend) was defeated.
- SCOTT 1G (1 amend) was defeated. Help fight using credit scoring for determining insurance rates.
- Hardiman 1H (3 amends) was adopted.
- SCOTT 1I (6 amends) was withdrawn.
- SCOTT 1J (1 amend) was withdrawn.
- Garcia 1K (3 amends) was withdrawn.
- Garcia 1L (3 amends) was adopted.
- Garcia 1M (5 amends) was adopted.
- SB 276 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 276 passed [RC 254: 34 yes, 2 no (Cassis, Patterson)]. Hammerstrom moved to have the vote passing SB 276 reconsidered. She then had her motion passed for the day.

SB 279 (Johnson)

School Aid budget

\$175 increase in per pupil funding.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Garcia 1A (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- LELAND 1B (1 amend) was withdrawn.
- Toy/Johnson 1C (4 amends) was adopted. Restore 20j funds.
- Hardiman/George 1D (2 amends) was adopted. Restore at-risk funding.
- LELAND 1E (2 amends) was adopted. Restore adult education positions.
- CHERRY 1F (3 amends) was defeated. Restore funding for early childhood education ("Ready to Succeed" program).
- SWITALSKI 1G (2 amends) was adopted. Placeholder funding to per pupil formula.
- SWITALSKI 1H (3 amends) was defeated. If current law is changed to charge sales taxes on pop/candy vending sales, raising \$25 million (\$15 million for Detroit, \$10 million for retirement benefits).
- CLARKE 1I (2 amends) was defeated. Detroit schools could use up to 25% of their at-risk funding for school safety.
- Garcia 1J (2 amends) was adopted. This would give a bigger increase (\$188/pupil) to school districts which currently receive less than \$7,000/pupil. Districts which receive more than \$7,000/pupil would receive a smaller increase (\$155/pupil).
- SB 279 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- CHERRY 1 (3 amends) was withdrawn.
- CHERRY 2 (3 amends) was defeated [RC 257: 18 yes, 19 no]. Restore \$6 million funding for early childhood education (developmental kindergarten program).
- CLARKE 3-4 were withdrawn.
- CLARKE 5 (2 amends) was adopted [no RC]. Schools could use up to 15% (instead of 10%) of their atrisk funding for school safety.
- SB 279 passed [RC 258: 33 yes, 4 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 387 (Patterson) SB 393 (OLSHOVE)

JOB TRAINING TAX CREDITS

SB 387 would allow an employer with less than 250 full time employees to claim a tax credit for expenses paid for an employee's tuition and fees. The employee would have to meet the following criteria: 1) Have an income of less than \$51,000 if single or \$103,000 if filing jointly. 2) Be at least 24 years old. 3) Be employed by the taxpayer for at least 25 hours. 4) Not be enrolled as a full time student.

The tax credit could equal 10% of the first \$10,000 of eligible expenses paid for courses that lead to a postsecondary degree or that are taken to acquire or improve the employee's job skills. The bill would reduce single business tax revenue by an estimated \$2 million beginning in 2006-07. All of this loss in revenue would affect the General Fund.

- Committee 1 (S-3) was defeated. (6/14)
- *Allen 2 (S-4) was adopted.*
- SB 387 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 387 passed [RC 260: 36 yes, 1 no]. (6/16)

<u>SB 393</u> would allow an individual to claim a tax credit for expenses paid for tuition and fees. The taxpayer would have to meet the following criteria: 1) Have an income of less than \$51,000 if single or \$103,000 if filing jointly. 2) Be at least 24 years old. 3) Be employed by the taxpayer for at least 25 hours. 4) Not be enrolled as a full time student. The bill would reduce income tax revenue by an estimated \$8 million beginning in 2006-07. All of this loss in revenue would affect the General Fund.

- Committee 1 (S-3) was adopted. (6/14)
- SB 393 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 393 passed [RC 261: 35 yes, 2 no]. (6/16)

HB 4444 (Pavlov)

HB 4444 would add definitions for "gardening" and "seawall maintenance" (as used in SB 282) and make other technical amendments.

- HB 4444 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/14)
- HB 4444 passed with IE [RC 259: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/16)